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PITTSBURGH, MONDAY, NOV. 28, 1889.

THE FUEL OF THE FUTURE.

Impreguably fortified as it is in the command of three pits of fuel—two of them, coal and oil, easily within reach and practically in abundance—there is still a possibility of a most immediate interest in the element of the natural gas, which is the cleanest and most delicious of all sorts of fuel.

These fields are gradually exhausted it is well established that it would be idle to ignore that fact. But that their life and utility may be so greatly prolonged by the improved methods of handling the gas which experience teaches, it is vital to know.

But, while feeling well over the period of prospectively assured enjoyment of the gas, which is yet ahead, and in a mood to gratefully accept all further extension of fortune's favors, it is also timely to look ahead to the most economical and desirable methods of using coal and oil, when circumstances shall inevitably again dictate a resort to the latter. It is not, for instance, possible to do away with the waste and the smoke and the soot which characterized the old methods of using coal? Have not the comfort, the cleanliness and the economies discovered in using fuel in gas form made it a problem worthy of every consideration and effort to secure a continuance of the fuel in that form by manufacture, after the supply from the fields shall have ceased? The use of oil for fuel is also an important question.

The intelligence that is published in this country concerning the course of the new Government in Brazil is calculated to create the impression that different factories are engaged in turning out the news without regard to advice from the new Republic. One day we learn that universal suffrage has been proclaimed; but hardly have the American press got through commenting on that feature of democratic reform before they are called upon to do the same with regard to a reported edict, that no man can vote who cannot read his ballot before he deposits it in the box. This might be a good rule, but when we find another extraordinary contemporary saying that it is established "under the new constitution" we are moved to a misanthropic attitude of the spectacle of a national Government which enacts a new constitution in less than a week, without ever taking the trouble to establish a representative body to adopt the constitution. The Brazilians would probably be also a good deal surprised if this news should ever reach them.

OUR BROTHER RIVALS. The statistics published by Iron are construed as showing that pig-iron production in Alabama has been immensely increased. This, to a certain extent, correct, as it shows the increase in furnace capacity to have been wonderfully large in both States for the past two years. Nevertheless, when Pennsylvania discovers that, taking into account furnaces now building, the increase in Pennsylvania furnace capacity is 1,049,000 tons and in Alabama furnace capacity is 1,039,000 tons, it will not be an unexpressed conclusion that the ratio of growth in Alabama has been immensely increased. It certainly permits the deduction that the extra charges on transportation which increase the cost of our product should be lowered by every known means. Give Pittsburgh water transportation for ore from the lakes and for coal back again, and she need not fear the transfer of her industries to any locality.

SECULARIZATION AND BANKRUPTCY. The statement that a large share of the business insolvency of this country is caused by speculation receives a decided corroboration from the last report of the English Registrar in Bankruptcy, who says that "almost every report contains a statement that the debtor has experienced large losses on speculation, which have nothing whatever to do with his legitimate business."

THE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK SCHEME forms the subject of an article elsewhere. When the functions of the Postal Department, in connection with the mail and forwarding money, are taken into account, it is not surprising that the postal savings bank scheme should have been suggested.

with the Lawrence Bank insolvency; but all the causes of that disaster are not yet thoroughly explored. If it is found upon full investigation to be wholly clear of connection with speculation, it will be the remarkable and fortunate exception to the general rule.

This fact ought to be impressively instructive. The public mind is often dazzled and allured by the stories of immense gains in speculation; but the stories do not bring out the fact that every dollar thus won must have been lost by someone else. Little is said of these losses, except when some grand smash forces attention to them. The testimony of those who study the causes of bankruptcy can furnish an offset to the big fortunes gained in speculation in the fact that the totals of bankruptcy are furnished by the corresponding losses.

RE-RELATED pension clerks who have surrendered the money that was paid them are beginning to discover that there may be a superfluity of gold pay.

WHEN the official returns show a majority of 50,000 against Mahone in Virginia, and we recall the fact that only about three months ago the same party were expected to carry the State, then a new force is given to the old proverb that there are greater pleasures in anticipation than in realization.

IF the weather adheres to its erratic and unreliable ways, we may feel called upon to give thanks next Thursday that we are not all drowned in the mud.

DEMOCRATS and Republicans are now studying with equal application who shall get the advantage at the opening of Congress. If they should study instead which party shall do the most to advance the public business, the advantage might not be any the less in the long run.

IT begins to look as if we would get news from Stanley direct before the telegraph gives us reliable intelligence from Brazil.

JEREMY justice has practically reversed itself by a decision of the Supreme Court, which maintains the gambling houses at Long Beach. The verdict interest in the case is not so much in the result as in the manner in which the court arrived at its decision.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE. THE Rev. Dr. Bartol, of Boston, is going to California.

THE late David Berner, of Cooledagata, one of the oldest Australian colonists, left \$300,000 to St. Andrew's University.

GENERAL MAHONEY'S eldest daughter, who has just reached this country after several years' absence, is a sweet and charmingly cultivated young woman.

orders, includes savings banks, express and telegraph lines, and will be prepared to ask for them as they may come under consideration.

THE barbed wire treat is building up its fences and putting fresh bars on them. But the members of the trust may yet find that their instead of others may have to sit down on the bars.

THE fact that Messrs. Bidway and Powers, the New United States appointees at Philadelphia, are declared by the Democratic Philadelphia Times to be above criticism, is pretty good evidence that, so far at least, the administration has succeeded in finding pretty good men for its Pennsylvania offices.

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